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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **SAN DIEGO SECTOR BORDER PATROL RECEIVES CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD FROM IACP**

**San Diego, California:** The San Diego Sector Border Patrol received a civil rights award in the area of Education and Prevention at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference. The conference was held at the San Diego Convention Center from November 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Each year the Civil Rights Committee of the IACP recognizes law enforcement organizations that through their professionalism, effectiveness and visibility against hate crimes, create an international model. Smugglers and border bandits often violate the civil rights of undocumented migrants. In 1998, the San Diego Sector Border Patrol launched the Border Safety Initiative, a multifaceted safety campaign designed to reduce injuries and prevent fatalities in the border area. The U. S. Border Patrol worked tirelessly to warn migrants of the dangers of crossing the border through public service announcements, the posting of warning signs in potentially hazardous areas, and establishing a liaison unit to work directly with the Mexican government. In an effort to prevent injuries and tragedies along the border, the U. S. Border Patrol began equipping their agents in the field with hot and cold weather packs to assist undocumented migrants in need. In support of the Border Safety Initiative, the U. S. Border Patrol created an elite search, trauma and rescue unit named (BORSTAR) that is able to rapidly deploy to any area to provide emergency medical attention and assist in the search of lost persons.

The Border Safety Initiative has served as a model that has been implemented at all U. S. Border Patrol Stations throughout the Southwest border.